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TANAKA TO RESIGN AS LDP PRESIDENT TUESDAY

1250021 TOKYO THE JAPAN TIMES IN ENGLISH 25 NOV 74 P 1 T

(EXCERPT) PRIME MINISTER KAKUEI TANAKA WILL ANNOUNCE TUESDAY HIS RESIGNATION AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE RULING LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH WILL MEAN HIS SUBSEQUENT RESIGNATION AS PRIME MINISTER.

TANAKA REACHED THE DECISION AT A MEETING WITH TWO CLOSE AIDES--CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NOBORU TAKESHITA AND LDP SECRETARY GENERAL SUSUMU NIKAIDO--HELD AT HIS PRIVATE RESIDENCE SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

TANAKA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING AT THE MEETING THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO ALLOW PROBLEMS ARISING FROM HIMSELF TO CONTINUE TO PLAGUE THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL WORLD, AFFECTING THE CONDUCT OF ADMINISTRATION.

PRIOR TO A REGULAR CABINET MEETING TUESDAY MORNING, TANAKA IS EXPECTED TO SUMMON A MEETING OF EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING NIKAIDO AND LDP VICE-PRESIDENT ETSUSABURO SHIINA, AND SUBMIT A LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

SHIINA OR NIKAIDO WILL THEN REPORT ON TANAKA'S RESIGNATION AND SEEK OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE PARTY AT THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

NOW THAT TANAKA HAS DECIDED TO FORMALLY ANNOUNCE HIS RESIGNATION AS THE PARTY PRESIDENT TUESDAY, MAJOR FACTIONAL LEADERS WILL STEP UP THEIR DRIVE TOWARD THE POST OF PARTY PRESIDENT WHOSE ULTIMATE GOAL IS THE SEAT OF PRIME MINISTER.

THE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL FOCUS WILL CENTER ON SHIINA'S MOVE TO HAVE THE NEXT PARTY PRESIDENT SELECTED THROUGH CONSULTATION, NOT THROUGH A SHOWDOWN OF ELECTION.

THE LDP'S PARTY REFORM COUNCIL HEADED BY SHIINA WILL DEFINE ITS POSITION ON THE WAY TO SELECT THE NEXT PARTY PRESIDENT AT A MEETING TO BE HELD TODAY.

25 NOV 024 1Z HWM/HH